

UNDER Republican rule it isn't "hard times," only a depression in "confidence."

REVISING the tariff by its friends is very much like trying a criminal by a jury of his pals.

According to the daily papers, stringency has gone glimmering and the end of the depression in business is in sight. So mote it be!

THE *Commoner* recalls, gleefully, if not a little spitefully, that "A few years ago a lot of republican organs hooted at Senator Peffer because he insisted the people could do business without money. Now they are insisting on the people being satisfied to it just that way."

CONGRESS convened on the 2d, and a long message was sent into the Senate and House on the 3d. Its salient recommendations were published in the REGISTER last week. Cannon was re-elected Speaker of the House and John Sharp Williams of Mississippi was chosen Democratic leader.

THE coin's "In God we trust," That Teddy wants to bust, Is grown too old; It fits a simpler stage, But in this wiser age We trust in Gold!

And, trusting so indeed, Why stamp on Gold the meed We owe to God? Our trust in Him we keep To give us peaceful sleep Beneath the sod!

But in this world of bustle Where we are bound to hustle To beat our brother, Our trust in Gold is clearer And holds us tighter, nearer, Than does the other.

Since trust in God and Gold Oppress the coin's mold, Let's separate 'em; The scripture plainly says, In divers texts and ways, We cannot mate 'em!

I COPY from the Chicago *Public* this resume of business conditions for the week ending the 20th ult. Particular attention is directed to the "pauper labor" which has been fattening during our era of "unexampled prosperity"—to the favored few—by our Great American System of Protection over everything except the wage of the native workman, who is a very self-sacrificing. He votes to pay high tariff prices for all that he wears and much of that that he eats and drinks in order that his employers may become millionaires, and submits to free trade competition in the only commodity he has to sell—his labor. It is generous in him, but high financiers would say "it isn't business!"

In bank reserves the deficit was somewhat reduced, but this was accomplished by restricting loans. Cancellations of orders for steel had continued and, as one of the regular trade reports had it, there was "next to nothing doing in the way of new business" and prices were "distinctly lower." The stamped of returning immigrants had continued, and on the 30th alone about 11,000 sailed from Manhattan and Brooklyn, while 2,000 were kept back for lack of accommodations. The record for the week was 70,000.

THE consideration for the Cole County Democrat's support of Folk and Civic Purity in the preliminary campaign of 1904, was \$500 for present use by the needy corporation owning that paper. For the "loan" of that sum Joseph Goldman and Speed Mosby gave their joint note and (as premium for the ready cash) signed a contract to boost Folk and Righteousness loyally and truly at all times. That this contract was faithfully observed by the "parties of the first part" is of record. But that is of the past, while the note—payable to a Mr. Houchin—is still in full force and effect, and has been sued on, which explains the disclosure of the transaction. To make the note the more binding and sacred from repudiation, I presume, the money was handed over by Houchin to Goldman and Mosby and the dickering formally concluded in the pastor's study in the Methodist church at Jefferson City. I hope no unregenerate, "machine" Democrat will revert to the scene where the Savior "went for" the money-changers in the temple, or suggest that old, libelous Spanish legend, "The nearer the church the further from God."

I NOTE with perfunctory interest—if interest can be perfunctory—that they had a Vandiver "boom" meeting in St. Louis last Friday. In attendance were fourteen Democrats—counting in Nelson W. McLeod of the city—from various

parts of the State. Of this number were Folk appointees as follows:

Geo. W. Williams, State Mine Inspector.
W. W. Waters, Farmington Asylum Attache.
W. L. Watkins, Supervisor of Building and Loan Associations.
Dr. J. L. Eaton, Tuberculosis Sanitarium.
Paul P. Hinchey, Member Board of Managers Farmington Asylum.
J. A. Tuttle, Steward of Farmington Asylum.

That looks mighty "machine"-like, doesn't it? I cannot now recall another "conference of leading Democrats" with so much pie-counter on the side. It's all right, of course—this is said to be a free country—and the pie-eater may not be debarred from any of the privileges and duties of citizenship. But those who furnish forth the counter don't like too much dictation from the stool-holders. Vandiver's all right; his official friends are all right; but so are a lot of other people all right, and they do not take kindly to the booming that springs from patronage. It is, on the part of solar-walkers, too much of the earth earthy, gives rise to unfaith, and makes talk.

THIS is from the Kansas City *Post*, printed in black letters on its front page—which, according to Attorney-General Bonaparte, is its "wrapper." Let that journal look a little out! You will note I am placing it in a position immune from Sec. 4988: "It has ever been the belief of the American people that federal patronage belonged to them and that it was dispensed by the President, their servant, as he, after full and careful consideration, believed would best serve the interests of the public, his master. There has been a long line of distinguished precedent to support this theory. Before the present incumbent was installed in the White House it was the custom of Presidents to make appointments according to their best judgment after all argument and evidence as to the merits and demerits of the aspirants had been duly presented. There is no record that Washington resorted to the fickle laws of chance in choosing men for responsible place, that Jefferson asked senators to cut a pack of cards for federal pie or that Jackson used a dice box to determine his duty as the chief executive of the nation. These men thought and acted for themselves and their decisions were governed by an honest desire to do the greatest good to the sovereigns, the people. Last Monday, at the suggestion of Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Senators Gamble and Kittredge of South Dakota drew lots in the White House for the distribution of the federal patronage of that state. The President obligingly held the long and short straws while the game of chance went on. One by one the powers of appointment, vested by the people in the President, were divided between the two senators as luck and chance decided. A serious duty was turned into a flippant piece of byplay, a solemn obligation treated as a triviality not worthy of a half an hour's consideration. Yet there is one precedent for this act of gambling for the rightful possessions of others. It occurred long, long ago, and was predicted by prophecy and verified by fulfillment. "They parted my garments among them and upon my vesture did they cast lots." This is not the only recent desecration by the President of the official home that is given him by the American people. Not many days ago all business at the White House was suspended while Mr. Roosevelt and a party of personal friends gathered in the historic East room to watch a troupe of Japanese burlesque struggle for a wrestling supremacy on an improvised mat. More than any other part of the White House, the East room is hallowed by sacred associations of the past. It was there that Dolly Madison cut the painting of Martha Washington from its frame and fled with it across the Potomac barely in time to save it from the hands of an invading enemy. It was there that Nellie Grant walked between solid rows of army and navy officers to the marital altar. In this room there have lain in state the bodies of the nation's beloved dead. The most recent use to which it was put was nothing short of sacrilege. It is fortunate that since Mr. Roosevelt regards his high office as he does, that he is open and public in the demonstration of his beliefs. He serves notice on the people as to what they may expect from him or from a successor of his choosing. And the notice comes in time to warn the people against repeating a mistake."

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